

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4309
ANSWERED ON:16.04.2001
WAGES FOR LABOURERS IN UNORGANISED SECTORS
ALE NARENDRA

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of criteria/norms being adopted for fixing the minimum wages of labourers;
- (b) whether the Government propose to include production and productivity while fixing the minimum wages of labourers in unorganised sectors;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL)

(a) to (d) : The Minimum Wages Act was enacted in the year 1948 primarily to protect the interest of workers in the unorganised sector. The Act, however, does not define minimum wages nor does it lay down the norms/ criteria for fixation of minimum wages. In the absence of any standard methodology, the norms recommended by the Indian Labour Conference in its session held in 1957 as also subsequent judicial pronouncements are taken into account. The norms include requirements of food, clothing, rent, fuel, lighting, children's education, medicines, recreation, marriage, old age etc.

The fixation of minimum wages further depends on factors like socio-economic and agro-climatic conditions, cost of living, productivity, paying capacity and local conditions influencing the wage rate.